The National Resident Matching Program (NRMP) revealed the fate and future of 151 KU School of Medicine students March 18. It’s a computerized system that matches graduating medical students with residency programs at hospitals across the country.

Family and friends applauded as Laura Zeiger, assistant dean of Student Affairs, called medical students to the stage to open their envelopes and read their “matches.” Many came with babies in arms and toddlers in hand, demonstrating this class’s aptitude for “multitasking,” a term Tiffany Addington used as she tried to open her envelope while holding her one-week-old son, William.

Although students will be going as far as New York Presbyterian Hospital and UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles, about 48 percent will complete all or part of their residency programs in Kansas or the Kansas City area.

During their fourth year, students interview for spots in residency programs and then rank their top three choices. The NRMP matches students with the highest-ranking programs offering them residencies. The results are then sent to the medical schools for distribution.

Match Day is an important milestone in a long and sometimes difficult journey to become a practicing physician. No one knows that better than two students from this year’s graduating class – Matthew Cobb and Howis Toler.

Married KU SoM students Caron and Scott Gutovitz were happy to learn they will serve their residencies together at Orlando Regional Healthcare in Florida – Scott in emergency medicine and Caron in obstetrics and gynecology. Match Day matched 103 medical students on the KUMC campus and 48 on the Wichita campus with residency programs across the country.

From Cancer Survivor to Caregiver

Matthew Cobb, married and the father of three children under the age of four, is driven and focused. He learned, perhaps the hard way, the importance of not putting off to tomorrow what you can do today.

The Wichita, Kan., native was diagnosed with acute myelocytic leukemia his senior year in high school. He had become so tired he could no longer play sports or walk up a flight of stairs without feeling exhausted. Four rounds of high-dose chemotherapy put him into remission, and he went off to college in Iowa.

His sophomore year, his cancer returned. After a couple of more
rounds of chemotherapy, doctors decided to do a stem cell transplant.

After six days of very high-dose chemotherapy, which killed his stem cells, Matthew was injected with healthy stem cells from his brother, Barry.

On the road to recovery, Matthew focused on the future and never looked back. He returned to college. His junior year, he married his sweetheart, Tricia. Medical school and children quickly followed. Three and a half years after the stem cell transplant, his doctor declared him cancer free.

“I keep focused on the plan and what we have to do to get there,” said Matthew, who hopes to serve rural Kansans through his family medicine practice.

“I don’t think about my cancer every day, but when I see patients facing a similar crisis, it reminds me to take time to help them get a grasp of what lies ahead.”

Howis Toler (second from right) celebrated her residency match with members of her family, including (from left) her grandmother, Charlene Middlebrook; her 10-year-old son, Drew Toler; her mother, Charlotte Toler; and her 17-year-old daughter, Sasha Toler.

From Teacher to Medical Student

Howis Toler was a single teenage mother in Kansas City, Kan., when she decided to become a teacher. After 10 years of teaching in the Kansas City, Mo., school district and obtaining a master’s degree in education, Howis decided to follow her childhood dream and enroll in medical school.

“I was spending so much time dealing with the health issues of students in my classroom that I decided to make it my career,” she said.

Howis, now 35, said she could not have gotten where she is today without the support of her family. Her mother, a nurse and also a single mom, has been her inspiration. Her grandmother helps out with the kids.

“I run a pretty tight ship at home, and the kids know what they need to do to help me get through this. The first couple of years we all studied together at night, and then when the kids went to bed, I studied until one or two in the morning.

“Now, it’s even harder. But Friday is always our family fun night. I don’t do anything but hang out with the kids.”

Howis is thrilled she will do her family medicine residency at Baptist-Lutheran Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo. She believes she is called to community medicine and hopes to practice in either Kansas or Missouri. From her own life experiences, she knows the many social issues that can impact health care in the community.
Heart Walk Seeks Walkers and Donors

KUMC will do its part to help the American Heart Association reach its $900,000 goal for the Kansas City Heart Walk. Team captains and walkers will get up early Saturday, June 12, to walk the one- or four-mile course starting at 8 a.m. at Mill Creek Park on the Country Club Plaza.

KUMC will have a large tent at the park and serve breakfast to walkers following the event. Participants will receive special team T-shirts to wear and a gift that day.

By setting an ambitious goal of $160,000 this year, KUMC hopes to beat out rival teams such as Truman Medical Center and North Kansas City Hospital. To date, KUMC is in the lead and has raised $9,347 through online donations and the Go Red Campaign held Feb. 6.

“But we still need everyone’s support to help us reach our goal,” explained Bob Page, the hospital’s chief operating officer and one of the KUMC team coordinators. “During the next week, we need team captains to recruit walkers within their departments and among their friends. We encourage everyone to come out and participate. Even if you can’t walk, we need your support.”

About 68 hospital and university employees are serving as team captains. They have until March 31 to recruit walkers. Each team captain hopes to recruit at least 15 walkers, with each walker raising a minimum of $200. KUMC hopes to have a team of 560 walkers; currently, there are 200.

To date, the top KUMC fund-raising teams are:

- Clinical Labs – $2,360
- Financial Reporting/Patient Financial Services – $1,223
- Research Institute – $1,000

If you are interested in walking or want to make a donation, contact your department’s team captain or sign up online at www.heartwalk.kintera.org/kc. You can also check out how much money is being raised by each department and how close KUMC is to reaching its goal.

Several departments are sponsoring fund-raising events outside the cafeteria to benefit the Heart Walk.

Friday, March 26
- Information Technology Services, Mary Kay fund-raiser, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Mother/Baby and Labor/Delivery Units, gift basket fund-raiser, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 9
- Volunteer Services, food sale, 6 a.m.-noon.
- Medical Records, bake sale and Easter basket sale, 8 a.m.-noon
- Ticket sales for Kansas Speedway, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Friday, April 23
- Financial Reporting, raffle ticket sales, 6:30-8 a.m. and 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Clinical Labs, silent auction, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
- Ticket sales for Kansas Speedway, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Reach Out and Read

Longtime Reach Out and Read volunteer Bea Coleton (below right), divisional coordinator, Infectious Diseases, reads to Anthony Phoenix at KU Children’s Center during Dr. Seuss Day, March 2. Reach Out and Read Kansas City, formerly KC READS, began at KU Children’s Center in 1997. Since then, the program has grown to include 34 health clinics citywide. This early literacy program serves more than 15,000 children and gives away more than 40,000 new books a year.

Cancer Fund-raiser

The Sixth Annual Susan Henke Miller Try 4 A Cure benefit for breast cancer research at KUMC has raised more than $14,500. The February 7 event took place at Prairie Life Center in Overland Park, Kan. Joining Susan Henke Miller (left), event honoree, were William Jewell, MD, director of the Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute, and Anne Miller Kindscher, event chair.

Front & Center

National Nutrition Month

In celebration of National Nutrition Month, the Clinical Nutrition Department offered KUMC employees free nutritional analyses March 17 and 24. Donations were accepted for the American Heart Association’s Heart Walk. Barb Gertsema (left), registered dietitian, provided an analysis to Eileen Stanton, Employee Relations.

Winners of the nutrition quiz in the March 11 issue of In the Center are Julie McCollum, Dean’s Office, School of Medicine, Lisa Robie, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Theresa Brown, Student Services, Carol Flemming, Kansas Cancer Registry, and Carol Cambron, Cancer Center.
New Aortic Arch Procedure Reduces Risks

Cardiothoracic surgeon Michael Gorton, MD, director, Cardiac Surgery, has developed a new process for repairing an aneurysm in the aortic arch.

Gorton’s technique reduces the risk of brain injury to the patient by maintaining a constant supply of blood to the patient’s brain. In the standard approach to this surgery, all blood flow to the patient’s brain is stopped while the aneurysm is repaired.

WDAF-TV recently featured Gorton’s new technique in its newscasts. The station’s medical reporter, Meryl Lin McKean, observed the surgery and interviewed patient John Blaufuss from Olpe, Kan., who was the seventh patient to undergo Gorton’s procedure.

Like many patients who have an aneurysm – a bulge in an artery – Blaufuss wasn’t aware of his life-threatening condition until he visited a doctor for shortness of breath. If the aneurysm had ruptured, it could have caused stroke or death.

As a result of Blaufuss sharing his story, an eighth patient with the condition received the surgery. The patient saw the news broadcast and called Gorton.

Surgery is the standard treatment for an aneurysm of the aortic arch. The aorta, which is the largest artery in the body, carries oxygenated blood from the left side of the heart to the body. The aortic arch is the curved section above the heart where three arteries branch off to carry blood to the head and other areas.

SOLUTIONS Hotline Has a New Home

Since December 2003, SOLUTIONS has helped resolve patient-care issues and develop permanent, long-term solutions that allow The University of Kansas Hospital to provide the very best in patient care. This one-stop resource has been available around the clock by calling 8-5859 when previous attempts at resolution have failed.

To date, SOLUTIONS has received more than 450 calls from physicians, residents, nurses and ancillary and support staff seeking assistance. Through March 14, members of the hospital’s management team volunteered their time to answer these calls. Now responsibility for SOLUTIONS has shifted to trained personnel in the Department of Nursing.

“This has been an important service to the organization and has helped the hospital target key areas for improvement,” emphasized Terry Rusconi, senior director, Organizational Improvement. “For example, we’re creating an online search function to help people identify the various responsibilities of each department/unit and how to contact each one.”

The SOLUTIONS number remains active. When calling, be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name and contact number
- An explanation of the issue for which you need help
- The name of the person or department you initially contacted for help
- How much time has passed since you placed the call

SOLUTIONS will work to resolve the issue and then follow up to make sure the resolution met your needs.
Exercise Program Targets Older Adults

On a recent Tuesday morning, more than a dozen seniors worked on balance training with T’ai Chi movements, did some weight lifting for strength and finished with some aerobic exercise on stationary bicycles.

They were all participants in a new exercise program for older adults offered by the Center on Aging at the Landon Center. Since February, participants have met twice weekly for an hour of exercise, which is supervised by trained professionals in the Community Resource Room.

Some of the over-55 participants, who come from the Rosedale neighborhood, are especially happy to have free community activities nearby.

“I like coming here because it’s so close to home,” said Betty Wood. “My doctor is very happy I’m exercising, too.”

Lois McCann, a volunteer at The University of Kansas Hospital for the past three years, heard about the program and decided to come with her husband.

“I wanted to get my husband off the couch and out doing something. It’s a fun group of people,” she said.

Although the current program is full, a second session is planned for May, according to Diane Clark, assistant director, Center on Aging.

“We plan to pump new life into our community programs, serve our neighbors first and then build on these successes by getting grant funding so we can duplicate some of the most successful programs in other communities throughout the state,” Clark added.

Other community activities planned by the Center on Aging include a senior volunteer program to update the patient education library, developing an intergenerational mentoring program to bring neighborhood seniors and children together, and producing a noontime brown-bag lunch series on topics of interest to seniors.

Two already scheduled include “The Benefits of Pet Ownership for Older Adults” on April 14 and “Gardening Tips for Older Adults: Container Gardens” on April 28.

To reserve a space for the brown-bag lunches or to sign up for the May exercise program, call Matt Chandler at 8-3094.
Employee Survey

Employee satisfaction is closely linked to The University of Kansas Hospital’s Five Star Performance measures and is a significant factor in ensuring satisfied and well-cared for patients.

To gauge how satisfied its employees are, the hospital recently completed its fourth employee survey. This year, nearly 1,400 employees completed the survey. Initial results indicate that employee satisfaction ratings increased in almost all areas and on nearly every question, according to Terry Rusconi, senior director, Organizational Improvement.

Overall satisfaction ratings increased from 3.05 to 3.14. Organizational Improvement is in the process of analyzing the survey results and will share more information with employees as trends and patterns are identified. Action plans will be developed to address concerns or issues raised by employees.

Free Concert

The Medical Arts Symphony will present a free concert Saturday, April 3, at 8 p.m. in Battenfeld Auditorium. The program includes “Symphony No. 4 in E Minor” by Johannes Brahms and “Concerto for Piano and Orchestra” by Edvard Grieg.

Merton Shatzkin is musical director and conductor. Christina Smith is the guest piano soloist. A pre-concert discussion of the program will be presented by Shatzkin in the auditorium at 7:20 p.m.

Funds for Peds

Children’s Miracle Network and local radio station Mix 93.3 raised a record $457,000 during the March 3-5 Mix for Kids Radiothon. Held at both The University of Kansas Hospital and Children’s Mercy Hospital, the live broadcasts featured the stories of patients who have been helped by pediatric care at the two facilities. The hospital’s Pediatric Unit and KUMC’s Department of Pediatrics will receive half of the funds raised.

Seminar Grant

Charles Porter, MD, has been awarded a week-long fellowship by the National Library of Medicine to study the interrelated disciplines involved in medical informatics. He will attend a Sept. 26-Oct. 3 seminar at the National Marine Biological Laboratory campus in Woods Hole, Mass. It will focus on the latest in information technology and its uses for health care and research.

Porter was recently named chairman of the hospital’s Cardiovascular Quality Assurance Committee and has been working on information systems in his own practice. Mid-America Cardiology has used an electronic medical record for the last eight years.

Porter plans to use the knowledge gained from this fellowship to integrate information systems development and quality enhancement projects in the Cardiovascular Department and at The University of Kansas Hospital.

Health Summit

The University of Kansas Medical Center Diversity Initiative and Students Educating and Advocating for Diversity are co-sponsors of the Greater Kansas City LGBT Health Summit, which will be held Saturday, April 3, at 8 a.m. in the School of Nursing.

The conference will discuss health issues of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community of Greater Kansas City. KUMC faculty presenting at the conference include Joshua Freeman, MD, chair of the Department of Family Medicine; Patricia Thomas, MD, associate dean for Cultural Enhancement and Diversity and professor of Pathology; and Kim Templeton, MD, orthopedic surgeon and the winner of the Daugherty Professorship for Woman in Medicine and Science in 2003.

Registration is free by calling 816-931-5838. For schedules, visit www.take-the-pulse.org.
Classifieds, etc.

Automotive:


1997 Kia Sportage, light bronze, tan interior, alarm, all power, 5-speed, AM/FM/cassette, $3,500. 913-593-3091.

1996 Honda Accord, V-tech, all power, sunroof, halogen lights, rally stripes, alarm, Montigi wheels, dual exhaust, CD with equalizer and amplifier, 110K, runs great, $7,000 negotiable. 913-244-3694.


1985 Mercedes Benz 500SEL, gray leather heated seats front and back, sunroof, good condition, fully loaded, $5,500. 816-547-7294.

1981 Pontiac Trans-Am 5.0, V-8, 4-speed, Muncie, runs/sounds great, $1,700. 816-547-7294.

For Sale:

House at 4507 Walker, KCK, fix up and save, 3 BR, 1 BA, living room, kitchen, shed, large fenced backyard, if buyer qualifies grant money available for part of purchase price, $45,000. 913-897-9492.

Lake of the Ozarks property, upscale Porto Cima, 1.8 acres on 12th green of Jack Nicklaus Signature Golf Course, paved cul-de-sac, private, treed, utilities in place, 913-236-2906.

White-Westinghouse 12.6 cu.ft. refrigerator, 13" no-frost freezer, excellent condition, white, must pick up, $75. 816-833-3315.

Table saw, works well, $20. 913-422-5202.

4 Windsor kitchen table chairs, $40; baker’s rack, $35. 913-568-3628.

21" Craftsman push lawn mower, 6.25 hp, large rear wheels, mulches, rear bag attachment, excellent condition, $100. 913-709-8155.

Kenmore chest deep-freezer, 1 year old, 10 cu. ft., manual defrost, lock and key, good condition, like new, $250. 816-547-7294.

Full-size futon mattress, barely used, never as a bed, $50. 913-530-5904.

To Rent:

3 BR, 1 BA Prairie Village home, washer and dryer, great schools, park close by, available now, $950/mo. 913-449-5058.

Free:

5 years of knitting magazines, excellent condition, patterns and instructions, child to adult patterns. 816-803-8564.

Wanted:

Reliable 18+-year-old as summer nanny for 2 young children, child care experience required, references, car, patience, lots of energy, 3 or 4 weekdays, 30-35 hours per week. 913-636-9040.

IN THE CENTER

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New Fax Number

In the Center and the Communications Services Department have a new fax number, 8-0241. Please use this number when contacting us in the future.

Friday, March 26

• Final oral exam for Paul Freeburg for PhD in Anatomy and Cell Biology, “Hypoxia-Inducible Transcription Factors and Kidney Development,” 9 a.m., Wahl Hall West Auditorium.

• Information Technology Services’ Mary Kay fund-raiser for the Heart Walk, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., outside cafeteria.

• Mother/Baby and Labor/Delivery Units’ gift basket fund-raiser for the Heart Walk, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m., outside cafeteria.

Tuesday, March 30

• Doctor’s Day celebration, 7-10 a.m., Medical Staff dining room.

Wednesday, March 31

• “The Cardiac Diet,” Barb Gertsema, RD, 3-4 p.m., Room 200, Landon Center.

Thursday, April 1

• Music at the Med, Michaela Kovacova, piano, noon, Battenfeld Auditorium.

• Robert Hudson Lecture, “Historical Perspectives on Public Health,” David Rosner, director of the Center for the History & Ethics of Public Health, Columbia University, 4:30 p.m. reception, 5 p.m. lecture, Clendening Auditorium.

For a more complete listing of campus events, go to http://www2.kumc.edu/calendar/.